REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 27-35 are allowable.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-9 and 11-35 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 11, 27, and 30.

Drawings

Applicant requests that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings filed on February 25, 2002, are acceptable.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 11, and 26 have been amended to clarify that the key encryption key includes at the following three portions: a key encryption key PIN, a key encryption key SALT, and a key encryption key ITERATION. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph [0036] of the instant specification. Further, claims 1, 11, and 26 have been amended to address various antecedent basis and clarity issues present in the claims. No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over PGP Freeware Users Guide version 7.0 (hereafter "PGP") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,250 ("Stein"). Claim 10 was previously cancelled. Thus, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 10. To the extent that the rejection applies to the remaining independent claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that PGP fails to teach or suggest a key encryption key as recited in the amended independent claims. Specifically, PGP fails to teach or suggest a key encryption key that includes the following three portions: a key encryption key PIN, a key encryption key SALT, and a key encryption key ITERATION. Rather, PGP is limited to keys that are based on a public key encryption system (*i.e.,* an encryption system that uses public and private keys pairs) (*See* PGP, p. 33) and is silent with respect to a key that includes the three portions as recited in the amended independent claims. In view of the above, PGP fails to teach or suggest all the limitations recited in the claims. Moreover, Stein fails to teach that which PGP lacks as evidenced by the fact that Stein is only relied upon to teach a server and a key management system providing process logic for the key management system located on the server. (*See* Office Action mailed June 16, 2005, p.2).
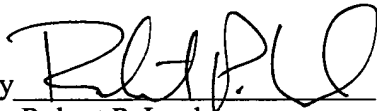
In view of the above, independent claims 1, 11, and 26 are patentable over PGP and Stein, whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09469/014001; 97.0013).

Dated: September 14, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

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